

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01046 281702Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02

CPR-01 INR-07 INRE-00 PRS-01 SAM-01 /052 W

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O P 281615Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5575

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP U MR

SUBJECT: OBSERVANCE OF DEATH OF MARSHAL GRETCHKO

1. SOVIET EMBASSY IN CIRCULAR NOTE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NOUAKCHOTT HAS NOTED DEATH APRIL 25 OF MARSHAL ANDREI GRETCHKO, AND HAS ANNOUNCED OPENING OF CONDOLENCE BOOK AT EMBASSY APRIL 28 AND 29.

2. IN VIEW GRETCHKO'S INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR TWO "LIBERATION" OF POLAND AND HIS KEY ROLE IN 1968 INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ANSWER TO QUESTION OF PROPRIETY OF US DIPLOMAT EXTENDING OFFICIAL CONDOLENCES IS NOT READILY APPARENT TO NON-SOVIET EXPERTS IN THIS MISSION, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW RECENT US-SOVIET DIFFERENCES OVER ANGOLA, ET CETERA, AND YESTERDAY'S REPORT THAT GHANIAN DISINVITATION OF SECRETARY IS RESULT OF SOVIET PRESSURE. RE RELEVANT LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS: FAILURE OF US AMBASSADOR TO SIGN BOOK OR DESPATCH OF LOWER-RANKING OFFICER WILL BE CAREFULLY NOTED BY SOVIET EMBASSY STAFF, AND WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT REASONABLY CORDIAL RELATIONS WHICH PREVAIL BETWEEN TWO EMBASSIES; LOCAL COMMUNITY WILL NOT KNOW OR CARE.

3. PLEASE INSTRUCT ASAP. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED PRIOR TO 1800 GMT THURSDAY, I PLAN TO SIGN GRETCHKO BOOK JUST BEFORE IT IS CLOSED. HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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